

## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



722512  
 10/10  
 10/5

# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

BAC

June 16, 1952 SS 115

## Potato Production Favorable

Condition of potatoes in the early and intermediate States is generally favorable...about the same as 2 years ago. June 1 condition of 83 this year compares with 81 year ago and the 10-year average of 79. States reported below average are N. J., Mo., Del., Md., Miss., Ark., and Calif. Big crop in Florida. Favorable yields expected in South Carolina, with digging later than usual. Condition improved in North Carolina with heavy movement by mid-June.

## Spring Crops of Potatoes Larger Than Last Year

The record early spring harvest of potatoes, nearly completed on June 1, of about 5.3 million bushels, is 27 percent larger than in '51 and 60 percent above average. Late spring crop, now estimated at 36.5 million bushels, tops last year by 9 percent. June is the month of heavy movement from California, Arizona, and the Carolinas; will also move in volume from Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Tennessee, but acreage is limited in these States.

## Near Record Wheat Crop Forecast

All-wheat production this year is forecast at 1.3 billion bushels, second largest of record. Current estimate is about a third larger than last year's crop of 987 million bushels. Winter wheat, estimated at 1,060 million, tops the month-ago estimate by 74 million bushels and is expected to exceed the 1947 record. Last year's winter wheat crop was 645 million; 10-year average, 800 million. Spring wheat crop, at 266 million bushels, would compare with 342 million bushels produced last year and 10-year average of 285 million.

## Soil Moisture Adequate for Winter Wheat

Soil moisture appeared adequate throughout the entire Great Plains winter wheat area.

## Corn Prospects Favorable

Prospects for corn were generally favorable on June 1, with the bulk of the acreage planted. In Iowa and Illinois, planting was about 95 percent completed, and was nearing completion in other Corn Belt States. Wet fields had delayed planting somewhat in Ohio and Indiana, also in Pennsylvania.

## Small Crop of Rye

The rye crop is estimated to be the smallest since 1934. Lower yield prospects than a month ago in the important producing States of North and South Dakota and Minnesota were not expected to be offset by improvement reported in much of the rest of the country. Forecast of nearly 17 million bushels compares with last year's crop of 21.4 million. Yield per acre is close to that of last year but acreage for harvest (1,381,000) is the smallest on record. Harvested last year, 1,733,000 acres; 10-year average acreage, 2,294,000.

## All-Crop Prospects Better Than Average

"All-crop" prospects on June 1 were better than average throughout most of the country. Reported uniformly above average in every region, the outlook is particularly favorable in such States as Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Iowa, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and in New England. States with low-level prospects are North Dakota and New Mexico; also a few scattered other sections. The crop-prospects map, as of June 1 shows only one "very poor" spot (Northern North Dakota) and the spots marked "poor"

(in North Dakota, Texas and New Mexico) cover a relatively small part of the country. The vast expanse, clear across the country, from California to the Atlantic Seaboard and on up to Maine, appeared "good to excellent" on June 1.

## Normal Progress With Spring Work

Despite delays from excessive rains and wet fields in some sections of the Northeast and eastern Corn Belt, and dryness in much of the Dakotas, farmers have made about normal progress with their spring work.

## Big Hay Crop, Pastures Good to Excellent

A hay crop at least as large as last year's record of 108.5 million tons appears likely. And for the country as a whole, pasture condition June 1 was relatively high...condition 88, three points above average...good to excellent grazing rather generally...exceptions were in dry North Dakota and adjacent areas and in parts of Texas and New Mexico. Range pastures continued to improve and the condition of range livestock improved in most areas.

## Milk Production Down Slightly

The 12 billion pounds of milk produced in May was down 1 percent from a year ago and was 2 percent below the 10-year average for the month. Production year ago, 12.2 billion; 10-year average 12.3 billion. January-May production 48 billion pounds; year ago for the same 5 months, 48.4 billion; 10-year average for the 5-months, 48.7 billion.

## More Eggs Produced Than Last Year

The nearly 6 billion eggs laid in May totaled about 2 percent more than in May year ago but about the same as the 1941-50 average. The 29.7 billion eggs laid during the first 5 months of this year were 5 percent more than a year earlier.

## 2 Percent More Layers

The 326.2 million layers on farms top last years total by 2 percent but are 4 percent below the 10-year

## PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	Apr. 15 1952	May 15 1952	May 15 1952
Wheat, bu. ....dol.	2.18	2.13	2.45
Corn, bu. ....dol.	1.68	1.70	1.78
Peanuts, lb. ....ct.	10.3	10.4	13.3
Cotton, lb. ....ct.	37.30	36.08	34.35
Potatoes, bu. ....dol.	2.31	2.64	1.73
Hogs, 100 lb. ....dol.	16.40	20.00	21.60
Beef cattle, 100 lb. ....dol.	27.80	27.90	21.30
Veal calves, 100 lb. ....dol.	31.10	31.20	23.70
Lambs, 100 lb. ....dol.	26.40	26.30	23.40
Butterfat, lb. ....ct.	1/ 74.3	1/ 75.6	77.2
Milk, whsle., 100 lb. ....dol.	1/ 4.90	1/2/ 4.92	4.86
Chickens, live, lb. ....ct.	3/ 26.0	24.3	32.7
Eggs, doz. ....ct.	1/ 40.5	1/ 39.3	50.7

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Revised.



average. Numbers were up from last year in all areas except the North Central States.

### 7 Percent More Young Chickens

Chicks and young chickens of this year's hatching are estimated at 488.8 billion. This is 7 percent less than a year ago and 14 percent below the 10-year average.

### Egg and Poultry Prices

Farmers averaged 34.2 cents dozen for eggs, mid-May, compared with 45.2 cents last year. Chickens brought 24.3 cents liveweight, compared with 29 cents a year ago. Turkey prices in mid-May averaged 32 cents per pound liveweight, compared with 35.4 cents last year at this time.

### Poultry Feed-Price Ratios Less Favorable

Egg-, chicken-, and turkey-feed price ratios were relatively unfavorable in May as compared with recent years. The mid-May cost of poultry feed was \$4.23 per 100 pounds, compared with \$4.02 a year ago.

### Deciduous Fruit Prospects

This year's apple crop is expected to be about average...slightly below last year's harvest...the crop in the Northwest was hurt by late freezes. A peach crop larger than last year is forecast. Pear production also is indicated above the '51 crop. And a large sweet cherry crop but a smaller output of sour cherries. Grape outlook is for a smaller crop than last year, mainly because of a smaller crop in California. Apricots, plums and prunes, all are indicated materially below the large 1951 production.

### New Crop Citrus Outlook

Outlook for 1952-53 citrus is very good in Florida, California, and Arizona. But production in Texas and Louisiana will be very short compared with the crops before the 1951 freeze.

### 69-Million Bushels of Peaches

This year's estimated peach crop of 69.4 million bushels tops last year by 9 percent and is 37 percent above 1950. Crop in the 10 Southern States, at 13.1 million bushels compares with 13.5 million in '51 and 15 million 10-year average. The estimated 7.9 million bushels in the North Central States triples last year's small crop. A peach crop of 39.5 million bushels is expected in the Western States—slightly larger than last year and about a fourth larger than in 1950.

### Fewer Oranges Available Than Year Ago

Oranges available for use after June 1 amount to 25 million boxes (20 million Calif. Valencias and 5 million Fla. Valencias). Compares with 35 million last year (27 million from Calif. and 8 million Fla.).

### More Grapefruit On Hand

Grapefruit to be had after June 1 will total about 7.9 million boxes (1.6 million Calif. summer, 6 million Fla., and a few in Arizona). Last year about 5 million boxes were used after that date. Heavy abandonment of grapefruit in Fla. expected because of low prices.

### Sugar Production—Cane and Beet

Sugar from last year's sugar cane and sugar beet crops (continental U. S.) totaled 1,970,000 tons, raw value (revised). This compares with 2,576,000 tons from the 1950 crops. Sugar cane used for sugar making in 1951 amounted to 5,725,000 tons, 12 percent less than in 1950. Sugarbeets in 1951 totaled 10,485,000 tons from 691,000 acres, compared with the 1950 crop of 13,535,000 tons from 925,000 acres.

### Land Values Steadier, Though Still Rising

Farm land values rose 2 percent from November to March—only a fourth as much as during the same period a year earlier. March index, however, at 211 percent of the 1912-14 average, was 9 percent above a year earlier...

General softening of commodity prices and rising farm production costs were major factors helping to slow down the rate of increase last winter and early spring.

### Farm Mortgage Debt Up 8 Percent

Farm-mortgage debt on Jan. 1 totaled \$6.3 billions—up 8 percent from a year earlier. Increase during 1951 lifted this debt to about the level of January 1942. But it was still below the \$10.8-billion peak reached on January 1, 1923. Value of mortgageable property, of course, was also much higher in January 1952 than in either 1942 or 1923.

### Prices Received and Paid

Farmers' prices have changed little so far this year but the average for the 5 months, as compared with a year ago, has been down. January-May average is 5 percent below a year earlier. Prices paid by farmers, on the other hand, average about 3 percent higher.

### Parity Ratio 101

A slight rise in the average of prices received by farmers during the short period mid-April to mid-May, and a sustained level of prices paid by farmers raised farmers' parity ratio from 100 to 101.

### Higher Marketing Costs, Smaller Farm Share

As the result of a 7-percent increase in food marketing costs during the past 12 months, consumers in April were paying 3 percent more for farm foods in the family market basket than they paid a year earlier...although the farm value was down 1 percent. Farmers were getting only 48 cents of the consumer's dollar, spent for the foods in the market basket compared with 50 cents a year earlier.

### Farmers' Cash Receipts

Farmers' cash receipts first 5 months of this year were about \$10.9 billion—slightly more than in the same period last year, although prices this year have averaged 5 percent lower. Receipts from livestock and products for the 5 months were down 4 percent, but receipts from crops were substantially higher than a year ago.

### Total Employment Now 61.2 Million

Total civilian employment rose from 60.1 million in April to 61.2 million in May (Census). Number unemployed, only 1.6 million, remained unchanged from a month earlier, also from a year earlier.

## CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE

INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	May 1952
Prices received by farmers....	'10-14=100	293
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes & farm wage rates.	'10-14=100	289
Parity ratio.....	'10-14=100	101
Wholesale prices of food.....	'10-14=100	1/ 278
Retail prices of food.....	'10-14=100	I/ 297
Farm wage rates.....	'10-14=100	I/ 510
Weekly factory earnings.....	'10-14=100	I/ 578
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-May 1951	Jan.-May 1952
Milk, (bil. lb.).....	48.4	48.0
Eggs, (bil.).....	28.3	29.7
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	2/ 2165	2/ 2214
Lamb & mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)	2/ 156	2/ 193
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	2/ 3841	2/ 4337
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.)....	2/ 6325	2/ 6905
1/ April figure.		
2/ Jan.-Apr. under Federal inspection.		